



# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 5158.1

May 1, 1985

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ASD(C)

SUBJECT: Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Relationships with the Office of the Secretary of Defense

- References: (a) DoD Directive 5158.1, subject as above, January 26, 1980 (hereby canceled)
- (b) [DoD Directive 5100.1](#), "Functions of the Department of Defense and its Major Components," May 1, 1985
- (c) Sections 142, 143, and 646 of title 10, United States Code

## 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

1.1. This Directive reissues reference (a).

1.2. The Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 and the President's Message to the Congress of April 3, 1958, set forth general policies, procedures, and organizational relationships required for the effective direction of the defense establishment.

1.3. The President's Message singles out the accomplishment of the following objective as one of the paramount duties of the Secretary of Defense, acting with the advice and assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief:

"Strategic and tactical planning must be completely unified, combat forces organized into unified commands, each equipped with the most efficient weapons systems that science can develop, singly led and prepared to fight as one, regardless of Service."

1.4. The purpose of this Directive is to implement the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 and the President's Message of April 3, 1958, with respect to the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and its relationship with the major offices in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, such as the Under Secretaries of Defense, the Assistant Secretaries of Defense, the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, the Assistants to the Secretary of Defense, and the Heads of other offices established by the Secretary of Defense.

1.5. The functions of the Department of Defense and its major components have been set forth in reference (b).

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

2.1. The duties of the Chiefs of the Military Services as members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall take precedence over all of their other duties. To ensure that the Chiefs of the Military Services have adequate time to devote to their duties as members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, they shall delegate appropriate duties to their Vice Chiefs.

2.2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff shall, in discharging their responsibilities, avail themselves of the most competent and considered thinking that represents every pertinent point of view, such as scientific, industrial, economic, as well as military.

2.3. To ensure that planning and operations are of the highest order:

2.3.1. All elements of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall cooperate fully and effectively with appropriate offices of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In all stages of important staff studies, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall avail itself of the views and special skills in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. As a normal procedure, specialized data necessary for the preparation of such studies shall be obtained from or through the appropriate offices of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

2.3.2. The Directors of the various Directorates of the Joint Staff shall maintain active liaison with appropriate offices of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This shall include, but not be limited to, an exchange of information, interchange of technical advice, and guidance for mutual benefit. The Heads of offices in the Office of the Secretary of Defense shall maintain similar liaison and make representatives available to meet formally or informally with appropriate members of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2.4. Directives and orders to the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be issued by the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Requests to the Joint Chiefs of Staff or to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff involving action by the Joint Chiefs of Staff may be issued by responsible officials of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, in accordance with authority specifically delegated by the Secretary of Defense.

2.5. Development of strategic and logistic plans shall be based on the broadest concepts of overall national interests. Personnel of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be selected for their competency and their ability to support such interests.

2.6. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall have the authority and responsibility to:

2.6.1. Serve as a member of and preside over the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2.6.2. Provide agenda for meetings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (including any subject for the agenda recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff), assist them in carrying on their business as promptly as practicable, and determine when issues under consideration shall be decided.

2.6.3. Furnish the Secretary of Defense with periodic progress reports on important items of current interest that are being considered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2.6.4. Keep the Secretary of Defense informed on issues upon which agreement among the Joint Chiefs of Staff has not been reached, and forward to the Secretary of Defense the recommendations, advice, and views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including any divergencies.

2.6.5. Arrange for the provision of military advice to all offices of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

2.6.6. Act as spokesman for the Commanders of the Combatant Commands on operational requirements.

2.6.7. Make arrangements to relieve the Joint Chiefs of Staff of matters of lesser importance.

2.6.8. Organize the structure of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to ensure that it is designed to accomplish efficiently the tasks to be assigned.

2.6.9. Manage the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Director of the Joint Staff on behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by conducting, guiding, and administering the work of the elements affected, and ensuring that the work is performed in a manner that permits the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to discharge their total responsibilities. The Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall perform such duties as the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff prescribe.

2.6.10. Keep the Joint Chiefs of Staff informed, as appropriate, about any matter that is referred by the Chairman to the Secretary of Defense with a recommendation that the matter be assigned to a Military Department for consideration or action.

2.6.11. Appoint consultants to the Joint Chiefs of Staff from outside the Department of Defense, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense and with the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2.7. As provided in Section 143 (reference (c)), the selection of the Director, Joint Staff, and of the members of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be as follows:

2.7.1. The Director, Joint Staff, shall be selected and his tenure fixed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and with the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

2.7.2. Selection of officers of an Armed Force to serve in the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be made by the Chairman from a list of officers submitted by that Armed Force. Each officer whose name is submitted shall be among those officers considered to be the most outstanding officers of that Armed Force. The Chairman may specify the number of officers to be included on any such list.

2.7.3. The tenure of the members of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be subject to the approval of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2.8. The personnel policies of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps concerning promotion, retention, and assignment shall ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the performance of a military officer while serving as a member of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as provided in Section 646 (reference (c)).

2.9. The duties and manner of operation of the Operations Deputies shall be prescribed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2.10. In order to carry out the objectives of paragraph 2.3., the Director, Joint Staff, and appropriate Heads of offices in the Office of the Secretary of Defense have the specific duty and authority of ensuring that there is full cooperation between their respective Agencies.

### 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William H. Taft, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense